

financial pressure, and put safeguards in place to ensure those sanctions are not wrongfully lifted.

It would also require the President to establish a task force to develop long-term solutions for providing reliable internet service to the people of Cuba that is not censored or blocked by the Cuban regime.

As the Cuban people's fight for freedom from the oppressive and illegitimate communist Cuban regime continues, the United States must stand for the Cuban democracy.

We can never bow to dictators—never. It is time for Biden to lead and to oppose those genocidal dictators and support human rights.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### TRIBUTE TO KEITH LAWRENCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, after more than 50 years as a pillar of Owensboro, KY, news media, Keith Lawrence is retiring. As the Messenger-Inquirer's longest tenured reporter, Keith was his community's ever-present voice, covering stories that ranged from local businesses to U.S. Presidents. As the city's mayor put so well, Keith "will be hard to replace." Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Keith in his retirement.

Keith has written for one newspaper or another since September 1963, when he first discovered his passion for journalism in high school. He cut his teeth during his undergraduate years at Murray State University writing for the Murray State News. After graduating, Keith entered the military, stationing in Fort Hood, TX. Loathe to give up any opportunity to write, he helped publish newsletters on base and worked at the post's newspaper.

Following his military service and some short stints at a series of weeklies, Keith and his wife Sandy made their way to Owensboro, where he began his extensive career at the Messenger-Inquirer in 1972. Though he has covered local, State, and national stories, community journalism always remained his top priority. Keith felt he needed to be the "eyes and ears" of his readers.

Keith's journalistic gifts have earned him fans both in Owensboro and across the wider Commonwealth. He recently received the Mayor's Award for Excel-

lence for his commitment to community coverage and joined the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame.

Throughout my time in office, Keith has been a constant at any of the events I held in Owensboro. He asked insightful questions, squarely focused on how my work in the Senate affected his city.

Though he is taking a step back from his position at the Messenger-Inquirer, Keith plans to continue his column and write news stories as a freelancer. Anyone who knows Keith shouldn't be surprised. He will always live and breathe community journalism. For Keith, his work with the Messenger-Inquirer was more than just a job; it gave him a home in which his family flourished and provided a deep bond to his city.

In honor of Keith's retirement, I would like to thank him for his service to the Commonwealth and persistent loyalty to strong local journalism. He has delivered an invaluable service to Owensboro residents for more than 50 years.

The Messenger-Inquirer paid tribute to Keith's career in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Messenger-Inquirer, July 8, 2022]

"LAWRENCE RETIRING AFTER 50 YEARS"

Keith Lawrence, the Messenger-Inquirer's longest-tenured reporter, is retiring after more than 50 years with the newspaper.

Lawrence, 75, is a Ballard County native who found a journalism career and home in Owensboro.

He joined the staff in January 1972. Since then, he's covered everything from mom-and-pop businesses to U.S. presidents.

According to Lawrence, being a journalist is all he ever wanted to do since discovering it in high school.

"When I was a freshman, my English teacher asked us to write poetry . . . and whatever I wrote she took across the hall to the journalism teacher and asked her to run it in the (school) newspaper—and they did," Lawrence said. "She told me I should take journalism next year. I didn't think I could do any of that stuff, but I did it and fell in love with it.

"I've been writing for some kind of newspaper since September 1963."

While in that journalism class, he met his wife, Sandy, whom he married a year after graduating from high school.

Sandy Lawrence said it was journalism that brought her husband out of his shell.

"Keith is really a shy person," she said. "But it was being a reporter that allowed him to talk to anyone."

Lawrence pursued his newfound passion at Murray State University, where he would write for the Murray State News and eventually earn his bachelor's degree in journalism and master's degree in communications.

In February 1970, Lawrence received his draft notice for the Vietnam War, but he was allowed to graduate from college before entering the military.

Lawrence was sent to Fort Hood, Texas, where he furthered his journalism talents by working on the post's newspaper.

Although he did spend time writing newsletters, Lawrence said he took on heavier stories that would help him later in civilian life.

"We did a lot of things that weren't fluff pieces," he said. "We investigated off-post housing. People would buy up an old army barracks and turn it into eight apartments. These were World War II army barracks, and people were being charged outrageous rents."

Lawrence was honorably discharged after less than two years and began looking for a journalism job.

His first attempt was working for a start-up shopper—a free weekly community paper—in Erin, Tennessee.

"It lasted about two months and we quit," Lawrence said. "We were working about 80 hours a week. We were salary and didn't get any overtime."

That's when Lawrence reached out to Murray to see if anyone there was aware of any newspaper openings.

Lawrence said there was a weekly in Benton and a daily in Owensboro that were hiring.

"I had enough of weekly newspapers so I applied up here," he said.

Prior to his starting at the Messenger-Inquirer on Jan. 24, 1972, Lawrence had only made two brief visits to Owensboro—once in high school and during a plane layover from basic training.

And when he and his wife, Sandy, moved to the city, Lawrence said he didn't think it would be permanent.

"I thought two years and I'd go look for something else," he said.

Five decades later, Lawrence has written countless stories and planted roots in Owensboro. The Lawrences have one son—Christopher—who's a writer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

In his time with the Messenger-Inquirer, Lawrence not only covered local and state stories but also national ones.

Among them were the 1988 Republican and Democratic conventions and the first inauguration of U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1993. He also spent a week with U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford in Washington, D.C., before he retired.

But for Lawrence, it has been community journalism that mattered most; knowing he was supposed to be the "eyes and ears" of the readers was something he took seriously.

"I always wanted to know why somebody was the way they were," he said.

On Thursday, Mayor Tom Watson presented the Mayor's Award for Excellence to Lawrence in appreciation for his coverage of community issues.

"He always treated the city and all of us fair," Watson said. ". . . Keith will be hard to replace. The stories he tells are accurate, and you don't have to worry about him editorializing your comments."

It was last year that Lawrence's dedication to his craft was recognized by his being inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame.

For Lawrence, it was an accolade that capped off his career.

"It's definitely the pinnacle," he said.

As a journalist, Lawrence has a unique writing style that is concise but still manages to convey all the pertinent information, said Matt Francis, Messenger-Inquirer executive editor.

He also has a work ethic that is unmatched, having never taken a sick day in 50-plus years at the paper, and the ability to cover multiple areas from business to government to entertainment, Francis said.

"But what truly sets Keith apart is his ability to keenly understand this community and the readers of this newspaper," Francis said. "They feel a connection with him, as he does with them, and I think he always understood what a privilege it is to be a part of informing and entertaining a community

through journalism. He never took that for granted, and I think readers recognize and appreciate that. I know I certainly do."

Mike Weafer, Messenger-Inquirer publisher, said Lawrence will be missed by both the newspaper and its readers.

"It's not very often that you get to use words like 'hall of fame' and 'icon' when you are describing someone, but you would not describe Keith's work at the Messenger-Inquirer without using them," Weafer said. "Keith has meant so much to us and to this community."

Although Lawrence is retiring from his full-time position at the newspaper, he will continue his column and write news stories as a freelancer.

And along with being proud of being affiliated with the newspaper, Lawrence said it's been special watching Owensboro and Daviess County blossom as a community.

When he first moved here, Lawrence said the Frederica Street sassafras tree, known as the largest in the world, was the biggest attraction.

But with the riverfront revitalization, the growth on Kentucky 54 and destinations such as the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum, Lawrence said there's no place else he'd rather be.

"Owensboro has come a long way; people who can't find something to do in Owensboro aren't looking very hard," he said. "But through the years, I've found out that Owensboro is whatever you want it to be."

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA, July 15, 2022.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-35, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Estonia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-35

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Estonia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$455 million.

Other \$ 45 million.

Total \$500 million.

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Six (6) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers.

Thirty-six (36) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS) and Frequency Modulated Continuous Wave—Directional Doppler Ranging (FMCW-DDR) Proximity Height-of-Burst (HOB) Sensor Capability.

Thirty-six (36) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary High Explosive (HE) Missile Pods with IMPS and FMCW-DDR Proximity HOB Sensor Capability.

Thirty-six (36) XM403 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with IMPS and Side Mounted Proximity Sensor (SMPS) HOB Capability.

Thirty-six (36) XM404 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Unitary Pods with IMPS and SMPS HOB Capability.

Eighteen (18) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Missile Pods.

Non-MDE: Also included are M28A2 Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR) pods; ruggedized laptops; training equipment; publications for HIMARS and munitions/missiles; and other related elements of program and logistic support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (EN-B-UFG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: EN-B-PAY.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 15, 2022.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Estonia—M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)

The Government of Estonia has requested to purchase six (6) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers; thirty-six (36) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS) and Frequency Modulated Continuous Wave—Directional Doppler Ranging (FMCW-DDR) Proximity Height-of-Burst (HOB) Sensor Capability; thirty-six (36) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary High Explosive (HE) Missile Pods with IMPS and FMCW-DDR Proximity HOB Sensor Capability; thirty-six (36) XM403 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with IMPS and Side Mounted Proximity Sensor (SMPS) HOB Capability; thirty-six (36) XM404 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Unitary Pods with IMPS and SMPS HOB Capability; and eighteen (18) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Missile Pods. Also included are M28A2 Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR) pods; ruggedized laptops; training

equipment; publications for HIMARS and munitions/missiles; and other related elements of program and logistic support. The total estimated cost is \$500 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. This sale is consistent with U.S. initiatives to provide key allies in the region with modern systems that will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and increase security.

The proposed sale will contribute to Estonia's military goals of updating capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Estonia intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces and expand its capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats. Estonia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Grand Prairie, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale may require the assignment of approximately fifteen (15) U.S. Government representatives and up to fifteen (15) contractor representatives to Estonia at any given time, during the delivery, training, integration, and testing of the HIMARS capability.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-35

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology

1. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C-130 transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) launcher, and can fire all of the MLRS Family of Munitions/Missiles (FOM) that includes Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS), Extended Range GMLRS, and the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). Utilizing the FOM, the HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)-aided precision accuracy.

2. The GMLRS M31A2 Unitary is the Army's primary munition for units fielding the M142 HIMARS and M270A1 MLRS Launchers. The M31A2 Unitary is a solid propellant artillery rocket that uses GPS/PPS-aided inertial guidance to accurately and quickly deliver a single high-explosive blast fragmentation warhead to targets at ranges from 15–70 kilometers. The rockets are fired from a launch pod container that also serves as the storage and transportation container for the rockets. Each rocket pod holds six (6) total rockets.

3. The M30A2 GMLRS Alternative Warhead (AW) shares a greater than 90% commonality with the M31A1/A2 Unitary. The primary difference between the GMLRS Unitary and GMLRS AW is the replacement of the Unitary high explosive warhead with a 200-pound fragmentation warhead of pre-formed tungsten penetrators which is optimized for effectiveness against a large area and imprecisely located targets. The munitions otherwise share a common motor, GPS/PPS-aided inertial guidance and control system, a